

*Marks beginning of the nation's first tri-service base, and praises White House decision to end locality pay disparity*

McGuire Air Force Base, NJ - Congressman John Adler, a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, joined military officials, service members, and community leaders at a ceremony to commemorate the first operating day of Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst. Congressman Adler praised military and community leaders for their work during the transition, and their willingness to work together and solve the pay disparity issue on the joint base.

"Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst is a vital part of our community and our nation's homeland security," said Congressman Adler, who represents the Joint Base. "It's essential that we support the Joint Base and our service members through this transition. I want to thank the men and women who work on this base for their service and sacrifice keeping our great country safe and free."

The new Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst is scheduled to be fully operational today. Congressman Adler has worked tirelessly to support this transition. The tri-service installation is unique because it consists of installations from two separate locality pay jurisdictions. Therefore, civilians working the same job on different areas of the joint base were paid different wages.

After consistent efforts by Congressman Adler, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) announced a new rule earlier this week that Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst will be included in the higher New York locality pay. This new rule is an important step towards ensuring that all federal civilian employees on the Joint Base will be paid equally for the same job. The locality pay change will be applicable as of October 11, 2009.

Earlier this summer, Congressman Adler released a report revealing the pay discrepancy on the Joint Base. In the weeks following, Congressman Adler passed a Sense of Congress, included in the National Defense Authorization Act that sent a clear message to OPM that all federal civilian employees on the Joint Base should be paid equally under the higher locality pay. Congressman Adler, joined by the entire New Jersey congressional delegation, also sent a letter last month to President Obama calling for all federal civilian employees on Joint Base McGuire/Dix/Lakehurst to be paid equally.